

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01587 010738Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SNM-05
TRSE-00 JUSE-00 OES-07 /037 W
-----073290 011330Z /14

R 311654Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9935
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
DEA HEADQUARTERS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1587

MEXICO AND SAN JOSE FOR DEA

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, HO
SUBJ: JUDGE IN JULIANA I NARCOTICS CASE REMOVED

1. JESUS LOPEZ ORELLANA, JUDGE OF THE FIRST CRIMINAL COURT IN TEGUCIGALPA HAS BEEN REMOVED BY THE SUPREME COURT FOR NEGLIGENCE AND ERRORS IN THE ABORTIVE TRIAL OF JULIANA I CREW MEMBERS. THE JULIANA I, WITH COLOMBIAN OWNERSHIP AND CREW BUT OF HONDURAN REGISTRY, WAS CAPTURED ON THE HIGH SEAS BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD IN LATE 1977 WITH A LARGE QUANTITY OF MARIJUANA ABOARD. ITS CREW WAIVED EXTRADITION AND WAS DEPORTED TO HONDURAS FOR TRIAL.

2. UPON ARRIVAL THEY WERE JAILED AND CHARGED WITH "SMUGGLING PREJUDICIAL TO HONDURAS." SHORTLY AFTER ARRIVAL THEIR DEFENSE LAWYER APPEALED THE CHARGES BUT LOST. THE CHARGES WERE CONFIRMED BY THE APPEALS COURT. JUDGE LOPEZ ORELLANO NEVERTHELESS THEN MODIFIED THE CHARGE TO ONE OF COMPLICITY IN SMUGGLING, WHICH PERMITS BAIL. THE CREW WAS RELEASED ON ABOUT \$5,000 BAIL. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEFENSE LAWYER, THE BAIL WAS RETURNED AND THE CREW REMAINED FREE ON HIS PERSONAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 01587 010738Z

COGNIZANCE. SOON THEREAFTER (EARLY MARCH) THEY SKIPPED THE COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS, OF COURSE STRONG SUSPICION THAT LOPEZ ORELLANA WAS BRIBED. LOPEZ HAS INDIGNANTLY DENIED THAT HE WAS WRONG IN ALLOWING BAIL. A SENIOR SUPREME COURT OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF BRIBERY. HE SAID LOPEZ

WAS REMOVED BECAUSE OF THE GOH'S STRONG DESIRE TO PROSECUTE THOSE
WHO USE ITS FLAG OF CONVENIENCE FOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING
AND ITS DISPLEASURE THAT LOPEZ' ERRORS ALLOWED THESE CREW
MEMBERS TO ESCAPE.
JARAMILLO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, JUDGES, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, TRIALS, JULIANA I, DRUG SEIZURES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEGUCI01587
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780142-0200
Format: TEL
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978031/aaaaaaqr.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a2f080b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3095772
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JUDGE IN JULIANA I NARCOTICS CASE REMOVED
TAGS: SNAR, HO, (LOPEZ ORELLANA, JESUS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a2f080b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014